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John Midgley, Director

April 30, 2007

Honorable Ronald Carpenter
Clerk of the Supreme Court
Washington State Supreme Court
P.O. Box 40929
Olympia, WA 98504-0929

Hand Delivered

Re: Comment on Proposed GR 33

Dear Mr. Carpenter:

I am writing on behalf of Columbia Legal Services in support of the adoption of Proposed General Rule 33. Our program's highest priority is to preserve and expand access to the justice system for all our state's residents, including those whose incapacities prevent them from exercising their rights in a court of law.

The Washington State Supreme Court has long been a leader in ensuring access to justice for our state's vulnerable residents. The adoption of Proposed General Rule 33 will continue the Court's leadership in this arena, while also bringing Washington's courts fully and clearly into line with the application of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to the court system in *Tennessee v Lane*, 541 U.S. 509 (2004). Proposed General Rule 33 provides a carefully tailored process to provide persons with disabilities reasonable accommodation in court. We enthusiastically urge adoption of this proposed rule.

Sincerely,

Columbia Legal Services

John Midgley
Director

C: Douglas J. Ende, WSBA
Access To Justice Board

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BY RONALD R. CARPENTER
CLERK